The Future of the Forum – an Outlook

Brainstorming among Strand A members
Dublin, November 2009

The proposal on the second "MF on Ex-Post Evaluation of Funding Schemes and Research Programmes" includes the following aims:

► establishing a network of people involved in evaluation within the national research agencies, provide a platform to exchange information and experiences on the rapidly changing evaluation practices on a regular basis

► updating and building upon the work done during the first Forum (mapping exercise)

► identifying best practices in research evaluation

► establishing working groups to look into the possibility of cooperation on a number of common concerns, for example

- current trends and important topics

- data organisation and management (common formats or classification to allow better comparability)

- cross-country comparison

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The ESF-Member Forum on Research Evaluation
Discussion of the following questions

► How should the report be disseminated?

► How should it be updated?

► What are potential future topics?

► What are potential future projects?

► How should be organise our work?

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The ESF-Member Forum on Research Evaluation
Dissemination of the report

► Members of the Forum:

- could distribute it in their own organisation (send out an email, present it to key actors personally, ...)

- could put the Report/a link to the Report on their website

- could identify their key audiences on a national level (e.g. ministries of science/research, evaluation agencies/scholars, ...)

► ESF should identify key audiences on an international level (e.g. other ESF Members who are not participating in the Forum, EC, ...)

► there should be an executive summary that can be circulated (which highlights the „germs"/main ideas of the report)

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Update of the report

► not necessarily update the report as such, but:

- ESF should provide a platform to inform about completed evaluation studies (links), update on an annual basis

- sort by evaluation level/funding modes

- use the template developed during the first Forum

► possibility to announce current and future projects

► online discussion board

► mailing list

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Potential future topics

► organisation of the evaluation process

- connection between a successful evaluation and the follow-up
- how is the „evaluation function" organised with the organisations?
- quality control/assurance – guidance/quality thresholds
- how to go about longer term follow-up?
- evaluation circle – ex-ante evaluation of programmes

► new developments in evaluation strategies (e.g. Eric project)

► cross-cutting issues to the levels of evaluations, e.g.

- training (e.g. education of PhDs)
- socio-economic impacts
- gender issues
- link between inputs and outputs/contribution vs. attribution
- data collection and data management issues

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Potential future projects

► „best practise"-handbook

► toolbox of indicators/methodology suitable for the funding modes

► tracking of state of the art/new developments in certain fields (such as socio-economic impacts)

► web resource of evaluation studies

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Work organisation

► ESF is going to send out letter of invitation to organisations

► use the next workshop to develop work plan/road map with distinct work packages which should then be published

► combine plenary sessions with working groups

► give working groups more room

► give discussions more room

► each workshop should have one overriding topic

  ● collect information on that topic in before-hand

  ● present „state of the art" among the members during the workshop

► give new members the chance to bring in their ideas

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Thank you for your attention